

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 EUR-25 AID-20 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 100189

P 032217 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9655

UNCLAS CARACAS 3749

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR VE CU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALDERA COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON CASTRO' S MAY 1
SPEECH

1. ON MAY 3 LOCAL PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES REPORTING FIDEL CASTRO' S MAY 1 SPEECH, IN WHICH HE IS SAID TO HAVE PROMISED SUPPORT TO VENEZUELA IF VENEZUELA AND US GET INTO A DISPUTE OVER PETROLEUM, AND TO HAVE PRAISED VENEZUELA FOR TERMINATING RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH US.

2. ASKED HIS OPINION OF CASTRO' S REPORTED REMARKS AT HIS MAY 3 PRESS CONFERENCE, CALDERA RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: QTE: THE PART WHICH, ACCORDING TO CABLEGRAPHIC INFORMATION, DEALT WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN VENEZUELA, REFLECTS WITHOUT DOUBT A POSITION OF SYMPATHY,

REVEALS A NEW FOCUS ON LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND, WITHOUT DOUBT,

OUGHT TO GIVE CAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND ANALYSIS BY MANY. WE DO NOT HAVE THE OFFICIAL VERSION NOR MUCH LESS THE COMPLETE TEXT, AND IT WILL BE A MATTER OF DAYS BEFORE IT REACHES OUR HANDS.

NATURALLY IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WELL ALL THESE EXPRESSIONS THEY MUST BE PLACED WITHIN A LARGE CONTEXT, BUT WE CANNOT DENY THAT IN THAT AFFIRMATION THERE IS A FACT OF RECOGNITION (HECHO DE RECONOCIMIENTO) WHICH WE MUST VALUE AND CONSIDER AS BEING OF IMPORTANCE. END QUOTE

MCCLINTOCK

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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